

Truck and Bus Regulation

NOx Exempt Area Extensions

Last Updated: February 15, 2012

This summary describes compliance options for vehicles that are operated solely within NOx Exempt Areas of California. The regulation does not apply to state and local government vehicles, solid waste collection trucks, drayage trucks that transport marine cargo, and public transit buses because they are already subject to other regulations. These compliance options do not apply to school buses.

What options are available for vehicles that operated in NOx exempt areas?

Vehicles that operate in NOx exempt areas and do not operate in other parts of California can take advantage of a PM filter delay for heavier vehicles, and both lighter and heavier vehicles can be exempt from the requirement to upgrade to a 2010 model year engine if equipped with a PM filter. Lighter vehicles have a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,001 to 26,000 lbs.

How are NOx exempt areas defined?

The NOx exempt areas include the following counties: Alpine, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Monterey, Plumas, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Northern Sonoma, Trinity, Tehama, and Yuba..

How do I use the PM filter delay for heavier trucks?

Vehicles that operate exclusively in NOx exempt areas of the state can use the delayed NOx exempt phase-in schedule shown in the table below. In 2012 and 2013, NOx exempt vehicles are exempt from the PM filter requirements. As shown in the table below, starting January 1, 2014, owners must meet the minimum PM filter requirements for the entire fleet of heavier trucks except for low-use vehicles (travel less than 1,000 miles per year). No additional action is required for NOx exempt vehicles that are equipped with PM filters. Single truck owners that qualify have until January 1, 2015 to install a PM filter because of rounding.

Compliance Date	Minimum PM Filters*
January 1, 2014	33%
January 1, 2015	66%
January 1, 2016	100%

* Minimum based on entire fleet of heavier trucks

Owners must report all heavier vehicles in the fleet to use the PM filter exemption in 2012 or 2013, and must report no later than January 31, 2014 to demonstrate compliance with the delayed PM filter phase-in schedule. Annual reporting is no longer needed after the fleet owner demonstrates that all vehicles are equipped with PM filters, except to report changes to the fleet. Other heavier trucks in the fleet must comply with the PM filter phase-in schedule, the engine model year schedule, or with other compliance options starting January 1, 2012.

How do I use the NOx Exempt area replacement exemption?

Lighter and heavier NOx exempt area vehicles can be exempt from the requirement to upgrade to a 2010 model year engine if equipped with a PM filter. The exemption can be used starting in the compliance year the vehicle is otherwise required to be replaced or upgraded to a 2010 model year engine (January 1, 2015 or later). For example, a heavier truck with a 1996 model year engine that complies with the engine model year schedule must be equipped with a PM filter by January 1, 2012, and must upgrade to a 2010 model year engine by January 1, 2020. If the owner can limit the vehicle's use to the NOx exempt areas starting January 1, 2020, the vehicle will not need to be replaced. The owner of a lighter or heavier truck that has no PM filter requirement but is required by the engine model year schedule to upgrade to a 2010 model year engine by January 1, 2015, can keep the vehicle by equipping it with a PM filter before January 1, 2015. Fleet owners must report information about the vehicle by January 31, of the compliance year the exemption is first used, and must label the vehicle (unless tracking is used) within 30 days of the reporting deadline.

While this document is intended to assist fleets with their compliance efforts, it is the sole responsibility of fleets to ensure compliance with the Truck and Bus Regulation.

Are there any labeling requirements to use the NOx exempt area extensions?

The year that the delay or exemption is used the fleet owner must label the vehicle unless location tracking requirements are met. Vehicles must be labeled within 30 days of the reporting deadline. The labels must be permanently affixed or painted on the left and right door of the vehicle with the letters "NE" in white block lettering that is three inches high on a five inch by eight inch black background. The labels must be in clear view at all times. ARB will not issue the label.

How do I comply with the delayed PM filter phase-in schedule if I have 10 heavier trucks, and all of them stay in the NOx exempt areas?

In the table below, the column on the right shows the number of PM filters needed to comply each year. Note that the number of PM filters needed is rounded to the nearest whole number. The requirement can be met with any combination of PM filter retrofits and original equipment PM filters.

Compliance Date	Minimum PM Filters*	Minimum PM filters Needed for 10 Truck Fleet
January 1, 2014	33%x10 trucks= 3.3	3
January 1, 2015	66%x10 trucks = 6.6	7
January 1, 2016	100%x10 trucks = 10	10

* Minimum based on entire fleet of heavier trucks

How can I comply if I have 10 heavier trucks but only 4 stay in the NOx exempt areas?

The minimum number of PM filters needed each year to use the delayed PM filter phase-in schedule is the same as in the prior example because the fleet size is the same. The six trucks that do not qualify for extensions must comply with the general requirements beginning January 1, 2012, and in this example, 5 of the 6 trucks will need to have PM filters by January 1, 2014. This is already more the minimum 3 required to continue using the NOx exempt area extension in 2014. By January 1, 2015, the fleet will need to have 7 PM filters to continue using the extension. By January 1, 2016, all trucks will need to have PM filters. Starting January 1, 2020, the fleet will need to upgrade to 2010 model year engines except for the trucks that will operate in the NOx Exempt areas.

Can I buy a used replacement truck and still use the NOx exempt area extension?

Yes, there is no limit on the number of trucks that can use the extension, and you can make a replacement with any truck as long as the fleet continues to comply with the requirements that applied at the beginning of the compliance year.

Can I use the small fleet option and later use the NOx exempt area extension?

Yes. The small fleet option also delays the PM filter requirements until January 1, 2014, but does not limit where a truck can operate. A single heavy truck owner that operates solely in NOx exempt areas starting January 1, 2014 can use the NOx exempt area extension to delay the PM filter requirement until January 1, 2015 because of rounding.

How do I determine compliance if I can take advantage of multiple extensions?

The [Truck and Bus Fleet Calculator](#) is an Excel spreadsheet that you can use on your own computer to help you evaluate various compliance strategies from now until 2023. The calculator allows you to determine compliance with one or more options in the regulation, including credits, extensions, and special provisions.

Where can I get more information?

Fact sheets, compliance tools and regulatory documents are available at www.arb.ca.gov/dieseltruck or by calling ARB's diesel hotline at (866) 6DIESEL (634-3735)

While this document is intended to assist fleets with their compliance efforts, it is the sole responsibility of fleets to ensure compliance with the Truck and Bus Regulation.